



HR1050

LRB097 21377 GRL 69304 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to honor the Grant Park Music
4 Festival on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Grant
5 Park Chorus; and

6 WHEREAS, The Grant Park Music Festival, the nation's only
7 remaining free outdoor summer classical music series, was
8 conceived by Chicago Mayor Anton J. Cermak in 1931; in 1935,
9 the festival was founded by James C. Petrillo, president of the
10 Chicago Federation of Musicians, to lift the spirits of
11 Chicagoans during the Great Depression; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1962, the award-winning Grant Park Chorus was
13 established under the direction of Thomas Peck; the chorus has
14 been led by Chorus Director Christopher Bell since 2002; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2012, the Grant Park Music Festival will
16 celebrate the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Grant
17 Park Chorus, now a professional ensemble of more than 100
18 vocalists; and

19 WHEREAS, The Grant Park Music Festival annually offers a
20 10-week season of free concerts, artistic development
21 initiatives, radio broadcasts, and community education and

1 outreach programs; the festival shares the enrichment of
2 symphonic music with nearly 1.8 million people each year and
3 has made its home in Millennium Park and its state-of-the-art
4 outdoor concert facility, the Jay Pritzker Pavilion, since
5 2004; and

6 WHEREAS, The Grant Park Music Festival has earned a
7 reputation for artistic excellence by consistently presenting
8 varied and adventurous repertoire - juxtaposing well-loved
9 favorites with less familiar classical and contemporary
10 masterworks - at the highest professional level; and

11 WHEREAS, The Grant Park Music Festival remains committed to
12 making live symphonic and choral performances broadly
13 accessible and to fostering a lifelong appreciation of
14 classical music among people of all ages, backgrounds, and
15 means; and

16 WHEREAS, The Grant Park Music Festival will celebrate the
17 50th anniversary of the Grant Park Chorus with a number of
18 special activities and events throughout the 2012 season,
19 including a Golden Anniversary Choral Spectacular on June
20 29-30, 2012; and

21 WHEREAS, The Grant Park Music Festival has further
22 commemorated this anniversary with the commissioning of 2 new

1 works for the Grant Park Chorus by esteemed American composers
2 Michael Gandolfi and Sebastian Currier; the composers will
3 present their world premieres on July 15-16, 2012 and July 6-7,
4 2012, respectively; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
6 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we honor the organizers and performers of the Grant Park Music
8 Festival on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Grant
9 Park Chorus and commend their continued efforts to enrich,
10 enlighten, and uplift all of Chicago's residents and guests
11 with world-class, free classical music concerts; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to the Grant Park Music Festival as a symbol of our
15 esteem and respect.